Increasing the generation of electricity

t. SHRI M. BASAVARAJU :
Will the Minister of ENERGY be ised to state : hether there is any proposal i" ation of electri- arc the details in gard whether Government propose to help the States specially Karna-a to overcome the problem of pi iwer cuts and hike in tariffs, if so, in what manner ; and how Government propose to strengthen in Si ite Electricity Boards in i .11 of electri- an of power thefts ?

I TIE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHD.
KHAN) : (a) Power generation in the country is proposed to be increased by installing new generating capacity, expediting commissioning of on-tg projects and improving the performance of existing thermal stations.

Installation of new generating ca pacity of about 22,245 MW is envi- duringthe Seventh Plan. On- going project ing closely moni- tored for expediting their commis sioning. For improving the per formance of existing thermal power stations, various measures have been taken which include renovation of exis ting thermal power stations under a Centrally sponsored scheme, trai- nio eration and maintenance personnel, introduction of moo methods and techniques in the areas of operation and maintenance etc.

,b) Power deficit States are generally provided assistance from the power surplus States depending upon availability and transmission facilities. Karnataka State is getting assistance from neighbouring States of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh depending upon surplus availabiliiv. Power tariff in the State is decided by the State Electricity Board/State Government.

(c) In order to support and supplement the efforts being made by the State Electricity Boards, Central Electricity Authority/De- partment of Power are also monitoring the construction of on-going projects. Senior oflicers visit the projects and render assistance and advice in removing the bottlenecks. Review meetings are also conducted by CEA with the main equipment-supplier for timely delivery of tl equipments.

For improving the power generation from the existing thermal power stations, Roving Teams and Task Forces of Central Electricity Authority visit various power stations along with BHEL/Instrumentation Limited, Kota and power station engineers to identify the areas affecting power generation. Time bound action plans are drawn up to remove the constraints.

States have been advised to take measures to minimise power thefts. The measures suggested include (i) setting up of vigilance squads to conduct surprise inspections ; (ii) comparing monthly meter leadings of industrial consumers with those of other similar consumers with a view to detecting significant variations in consumption ;. (iii) provisions of cut-outs after the metering to prevent direct tapping of power : and (iv) use of zig-zag and numbered seals on the meter terminal cover and cut out and to keep die account of seals to detect fake seals etc.

Oil and gas exploration

129. SHRI RAMANAND YA-DAV : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to stale :

(a) whether Government has decided to offer fresh off-shore nreis